


Please add new claims 5 and 6 as follows.

 **Claim 5 (New).** A process according to claim 4, wherein the reaction temperature is in the range 100°C - 200°C.

Claim 6 (New). A process according to claim 5, wherein the reaction temperature is in the range 100°C - 160°C.

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are rejected. Claims 4 is amended and portions of claim 4 rewritten as new claims 5 and 6. Support for the amendments and new claims can be found throughout the application, for instance in the claims as originally filed. No new matter is added. Claims 1-6 are submitted for further consideration at this time. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §§102/103

Claims 1- 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Miller et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2,598,411). It is alleged that Miller et al. teaches or suggests each and every element of the claimed invention.

Applicants respectfully disagree. The present invention in a preferred embodiment is concerned with a process in gaseous phase to obtain CFC 113a starting from CFC 113, wherein CFC 113, optionally diluted with a gas inert under the reaction conditions, is let flow on a catalyst formed by aluminum fluoride in a fixed or fluidized bed.

No such invention is taught or suggested in the prior art. In contrast to the claimed invention, Miller et al. is directed to a process for preparing saturated perhalocarbons and more particularly to a process for preparing saturated perhalocarbons by intramolecular rearrangement. While Miller et al. discloses AlCl_3 as a catalyst, Applicants point out that such AlCl_3 has no mention in the claimed invention. Indeed, Miller et al. at col. 2 (lines 35, 43 and 55) teaches three typical reactions wherein AlCl_3 is present as a catalyst. Such disclosure is no teaching or suggestion of the claimed invention. Applicants note that although the Office Action at page 2 cites col. 3, lines 20+ of Miller et al. as disclosing aluminum fluoride, such disclosure actually refers to the AlCl_3 catalyst, which can be powdered or dissolved or may be deposited on a carrier such as sintered AlF_3 . In clear contrast to the present invention, Miller et al. at col. 3 (lines 26-29) states that catalyst employed for its process may be aluminum chloride, aluminum bromide or mixture thereof, which may incorporate some other metal halides. In other words, Miller et al. does not teach or suggest aluminum fluoride as a catalyst, as required by the claimed invention, but only as an optional carrier for specifically listed catalysts. Miller et al. contains absolutely no teaching or suggestion with respect to aluminum fluoride and its use as a catalyst in order to obtain the substantially quantitative conversion of CFC 113 to CFC 113a as in the claimed invention. Therefore, in that the cited reference fails to teach each and every element of the claimed invention, Applicants urge withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot in light of the claim


amendments indicated herein. Applicants also submit that no change in claim scope is intended by the amendments, pointing out that the amended portions of claim 4 have been rewritten as new dependent claims 5 and 6. Applicants urge withdrawal of all rejections.

In view of the amendments and remarks above, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance and request favorable action thereon.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket No. 108910-00052.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Marked-Up Copy of Claim Amendments

MARKED-UP COPY OF CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 4 (Amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the reaction temperature is in the range 50°C-280°C [, preferably 100°C-200°C, still more preferably 100°C - 160°C].